

Senate File 307 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 307

BY SCHNEIDER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to rescue vehicles designated as authorized
2 emergency vehicles, and making a penalty applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.231, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2017,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. The driver of a fire department vehicle, police vehicle,
4 rescue vehicle, or ambulance, or a peace officer riding a
5 police bicycle in the line of duty may do any of the following:

6 a. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only
7 after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.

8 b. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the driver
9 does not endanger life or property.

10 4. The exemptions granted to an authorized emergency
11 vehicle under subsection 2 and for a fire department vehicle,
12 police vehicle, rescue vehicle, or ambulance as provided in
13 subsection 3 shall apply only when such vehicle is making use
14 of an audible signaling device meeting the requirements of
15 section 321.433 or a visual signaling device, except that use
16 of an audible or visual signaling device shall not be required
17 when exercising the exemption granted under subsection 3,
18 paragraph "b" of this section when the vehicle is operated by
19 a peace officer, pursuing a suspected violator of the speed
20 restrictions imposed by or pursuant to this chapter, for the
21 purpose of determining the speed of travel of such suspected
22 violator.

23 Sec. 2. Section 321.451, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 2. a. The application for a certificate of designation
26 must include the name of the owner of the vehicle, vehicle
27 identification information, a description of the vehicle's
28 equipment, and a description of how the vehicle will be used as
29 an authorized emergency vehicle.

30 b. If the vehicle is a rescue vehicle, the application shall
31 be accompanied by a letter of approval from the sheriff or
32 emergency management coordinator of the county of the vehicle
33 owner's residence. This paragraph "b" shall not apply to a
34 rescue vehicle designated as an authorized emergency vehicle
35 prior to July 1, 2017, or to any other rescue vehicle owned by a

1 person who owns or has owned a rescue vehicle designated as an
2 authorized emergency vehicle prior to July 1, 2017.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 Under current law, an authorized emergency vehicle that
7 is a fire department vehicle, police vehicle, or ambulance,
8 that is responding to an emergency call, in the pursuit of a
9 perpetrator, operating in response to an incident dangerous to
10 the public, or responding to a fire alarm, may proceed past
11 a red light or stop sign after slowing down as necessary for
12 the safe operation of the vehicle, and may exceed the maximum
13 speed limits so long as the driver does not endanger life
14 or property. This bill broadens that provision to include
15 rescue vehicles. Under Code chapter 321, a "rescue vehicle"
16 is a motor vehicle equipped with rescue, fire, or life support
17 equipment used to assist and rescue persons in emergencies
18 or support emergency personnel in the performance of their
19 duties. The penalty for a violation of this provision remains
20 a scheduled fine of \$100.

21 Under current law, privately owned rescue vehicles and
22 certain other privately owned vehicles may be designated by
23 the department of transportation as authorized emergency
24 vehicles. The bill requires an application for a certificate
25 of designation for a rescue vehicle to be accompanied by a
26 letter of approval from the sheriff or emergency management
27 coordinator of the county of the vehicle owner's residence.
28 This provision of the bill does not apply to a rescue vehicle
29 designated as an authorized emergency vehicle prior to July
30 1, 2017, or to any other rescue vehicle owned by a person who
31 owns or has owned a rescue vehicle designated as an authorized
32 emergency vehicle prior to July 1, 2017.